

Ready to Read

An Early Literacy Newsletter

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Literacy to Go: Read During the Summer



Summer is here and many preschoolers are out of school, so parents and caregivers are faced with the challenge of keeping them entertained. You can do this—and sneak in a little learning—with fun summer books and literacy activities. On the go with your children? Bring books with you. They're great for car rides, pool breaks, at the beach and during vacation down time. Books are also perfect for relieving boredom when children attend siblings' sporting events, therapies or other appointments.

No book handy, but need something to keep children occupied? Read anything: magazines, newspapers, catalogs, cereal boxes, street signs, advertisements, license plates or menus. Ask

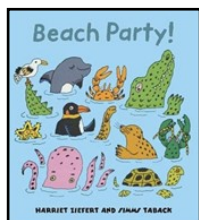
children to look in their environment for letters that they know, use picture clues to guess what words they notice (before you read them) or play games like the phonics scavenger hunt found on websites like www.education.com/activity/preschool/reading.

Don't forget about the free programs that Fairfax County Public Library offers over the summer. In July alone, the library is offering over 200 programs that families can attend: puppet shows, music and movement, science programs, creature encounters, yoga, Lego building and themed storytimes. Popular programs often require advance registration and fill up quickly, so call the branch or register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events as early as two weeks before the program to secure a spot.

- article written by Trinity Edwards, Early Literacy Assistant

Summer-Themed Library Books

Find these and many other summer-themed stories at your neighborhood library branch.



Beach Party! by Harriet Ziefert
Various animals go to the beach for a swim. Each animal has a unique way of getting there. For example, the seagull flies, the crab scoots and the penguin walks.

Bear and Bee by Sergio Ruzzier

A hungry bear discovers that bees are not terrible monsters who never share their honey.

Can You Make a Scary Face? by Jan Thomas

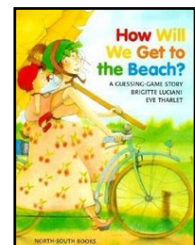
A ladybug invites the reader to play a game of "let's pretend."

Flower Garden by Eve Bunting

Helped by her father, a young girl prepares a flower garden as a birthday surprise for her mother. This story uses simple, rhyming text and colorful illustrations.

How Will We Get to the Beach? by Brigitte Luciani

The reader is asked to guess what Roxanne must leave behind (ball, umbrella, book, turtle or baby) as she tries various means of transportation to get to the beach.

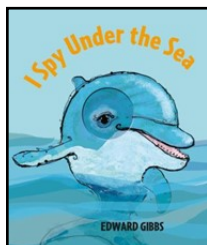


"Summer-Themed Library Books" continued on page 2

"Summer-Themed Library Books" continued from page 1

I Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison

A young girl hears a rhythm coming from the world around her and begins to move to the beat, beginning an impromptu dance.



I Spy Under the Sea by Edwards Gibbs

Look through the spy holes and count the sea creatures in this underwater take on the classic game. Readers will learn numbers and marine animal names.

The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear by Don and Audrey Wood

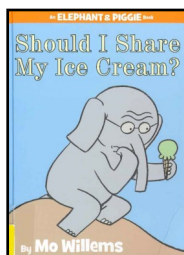
The Little Mouse will do all he can to save his strawberry from the Big Hungry Bear, even if it means sharing it with the reader.

Rattletrap Car by Phyllis Root

Wanting to go to the lake on a hot summer's day, Junie's family begins their plans to get their old car moving with the help of some razzleberry dazzleberry snazzleberry fizz.

Should I Share My Ice Cream by Mo Willems

Using vocabulary that is perfect for beginning readers, this funny story illustrates the challenges of doing the right thing.

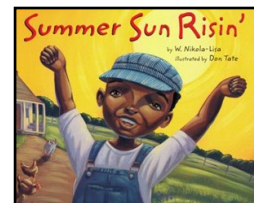


Summer Days and Nights by Wong Herbert Yee

A little girl enjoys the activities of a warm summer day and night.

Summer Sun Risin' by W. Nikola-Lisa

A boy enjoys a summer day on his family's farm, milking the cows, fishing and having fun.



Summer Reading Challenge Starts June 23

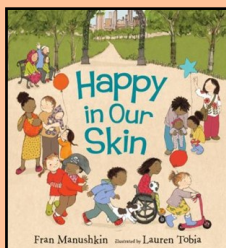
Studies have found that library visits, the number of books read and the amount of time spent reading during summer vacation all contribute to your child's success when school resumes in the fall.

Participating in Fairfax County Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge is a great way to encourage recreational reading during the summer. When preschoolers read 15 books, or have someone read to them, they will receive a coupon booklet full of free and discounted prizes. The Summer Reading Challenge runs from June 23 to September 3.

Visit your neighborhood library for more information about summer reading activities.

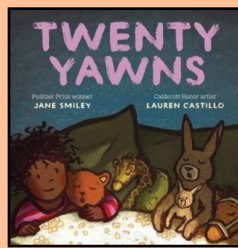


Diversity Books of the Month



Happy in Our Skin by Fran Manushkin

All children can see themselves, and open their eyes to the world around them, in this sweet celebration of skin in all its many, many, wonderful forms. This book features diverse characters. *Appropriate for ages 2-5.*



Twenty Yawns by Jane Smiley

As her mom reads a bedtime story, Lucy drifts off. But later, she awakens in a dark, still room, and everything looks mysterious. How will she ever get back to sleep? This book features a bi-racial family. *Appropriate for ages 3-5.*

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library